

SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Intent and Purpose

The Department of General Services, Telecommunications Division (DGS/TD) is planning to establish a new telecommunications model for the State of California. It is the state's intent to ultimately replace the current environment of independent, heterogeneous, state-owned, telecommunications networks with an integrated, flexible, and efficient statewide service relying to the greatest extent feasible on contractor-owned and contractor-operated infrastructure and the competitive acquisition of management, operations, and service delivery.

The new telecommunications model must be designed to address the business problems of state agencies and provide for modernization of the infrastructure and rapid deployment of new technologies to meet the state's ever-increasing telecommunications demands. It is to become the vehicle for the efficient consolidation of networks on a statewide basis and create the networking infrastructure to share information among state agencies and with the citizens of California. In pursuing the new telecommunications environment, the state intends to divest the state-owned telecommunications infrastructure in a manner which reduces overall costs to the state while ensuring improved delivery of service.

This document is a Request for Information (RFI) from interested parties, individual companies or strategic teams who may be interested in supplying telecommunications services to the state and is intended to accomplish the following purposes:

- Describe and clarify the short and long-term strategies the state intends to implement for the state's current and future telecommunications needs.
- Formally inform potential suppliers of the strategy and structure the state intends to implement in the new integrated information network.
- Define the base assumptions for using the competitive marketplace for obtaining services and presents the management and operational principles the state intends to apply.
- Provide a forum for interested parties to address the appropriateness and probability of success of the state's strategies and approach to meeting the state's telecommunications needs.
- Allow the state to seek industry counsel on the marketability of CALNET and all state telecommunications networks.

- Provide the state a means to evaluate and qualify the appropriateness of each supplier's services.
- Provide the state a means of evaluating the supplier's ability to meet the state's telecommunications needs within the limits of the current regulatory environment.
- Provide the state a means of determining the scope of the forthcoming RFP that will maximize competition to meet the states service requirements at the least cost to the state as a whole.
- Provide a means for interested parties to address and indicate to the state the teaming which may be required to successfully respond to the forthcoming RFP for the California Integrated Information Network (CIIN).
- Assist in determining the continued level of support to be required by DGS/TD in the new environment.

The information gathered from this RFI will be used to further solidify the state's direction. This will lead towards the issuance of a possible Request for Proposal (RFP) to obtain telecommunications services through a private sector provided statewide telecommunications infrastructure which will leverage the total buying power of the state.

1.2. Official Contacts

1.2.1. Departmental Official

The Departmental Official and mailing address to send responses is:

Allan G. Tolman
Chief, Telephone and Network Services
Telecommunications Division
Department of General Services
601 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95814

1.2.2. Department Contact

The Department Contact, mailing address and telephone number for questions or requests for information is:

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1.2.3. Alternate Department Contact

In the absence of the above Department Contact, the alternate contact is:

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1.3. Key Action Dates

Listed below are the important actions and dates by which the actions are to be taken or completed. If the state finds it necessary to change any of these dates, it will do so by addendum.

Action	Date
1. Release of RFI	March 31, 1997
2. State available for clarification of RFI material	March 31, 1997 to May 16, 1997
3. Intent to respond letter	May 2, 1997
4. Last day to submit questions	May 2, 1997
5. Submission of Interested Parties Response	June 2, 1997
6. State evaluation of Submitted Responses	June 3, 1997 to June 17, 1997
7. Tentative release of the RFP	July 31, 1997